



Gayle and Edward Roski

Visionary gift names the USC Roski Eye Institute

By Lynn Lipinski

Longtime USC benefactors Gayle and Edward Roski have made a landmark \$25 million gift to endow and name the USC Gayle and Edward Roski Eye Institute at Keck Medicine of USC, reflecting the institute's position as one of the nation's leading centers for advanced vision care, research and education.

The Roskis' gift will support USC's initiatives to preserve, restore and improve the sight of patients in Southern California and worldwide. By propelling discovery of new knowledge and furthering the education of tomorrow's leaders in ophthalmology, the gift will enable the USC Roski Eye Institute to continue its powerful influence on vision care, research and education across the world. It also will advance Keck Medicine of

USC's position as a leader and innovator in the global human health revolution.

USC Trustee Ed Roski and his wife, Gayle, are major benefactors to USC's art and design school, students and programs. This latest generous gift takes on special meaning because of the couple's own experiences: Gayle Garner Roski, a plein-air watercolorist, received cataract treatment at USC Roski Eye Institute. The procedure dramatically improved her ability to see color and light values. After the surgery she realized how her vision, blurred and darkened by cataracts, had affected her paintings and changed how she used color. The Roskis now hope to help others suffering from vision loss or impairment.

The couple's roots at USC run deep. They met their first year on campus as

undergraduate students. Ten years ago, the USC Gayle Garner Roski School of Art and Design was named in recognition of the couple's transformative gift. Their generous support helped the fine arts program embrace new media and digital arts, as well as provide for a graduate student art gallery. Other notable gifts to the university by the Roskis have supported athletics and the USC Marshall School of Business. With this most recent gift, the Roskis reaffirm their long-standing support, while bringing a unique perspective — that of the visual artist — to the study and treatment of eye disease.

"Gayle and Ed Roski stand among USC's most treasured friends," said USC President C. L. Max Nikias, PhD. "Generations from now, our community will continue to learn about this extraordinary couple, and their enduring contributions to our university. With this most recent gift, the Roskis build beautifully on their already impressive legacy, while widening the scope of their remarkable philanthropy."

Led by Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, professor and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and interim dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC, the USC Roski Eye Institute traces its roots to the founding of USC's ophthalmology department in 1974. Its 60 faculty members have

Steve Cohn

In memoriam: USC President Emeritus Steven B. Sample

By Sue Vogl and Lynn Lipinski

Steven Browning Sample, who served as USC's 10th president from 1991 to 2010 — a time of remarkable transformation at the university — died March 29. He was 75.

During Sample's 19-year tenure as president, the university ascended national academic ranks. USC became a highly selective undergraduate university, recruited many nationally prominent faculty, created a global presence, completed what was at the time the largest fundraising campaign ever in higher education and built partnerships in the communities surrounding



Philip Channing

Steven B. Sample

USC's campuses. "Generations from now, those studying the history of our university will quickly find themselves learning the remarkable story of Steven Sample," said USC President C. L. Max Nikias, PhD. "So many of

See **SAMPLE**, page 3



Joel Lipton

Rohit Varma

Varma named interim dean of the Keck School

By Amanda Busick

Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, holder of the Grace and Emery Beardsley Chair in Ophthalmology and director of the USC Eye Institute, was announced as the interim dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC on March 24 in an email from Provost Michael Quick, PhD. Varma, who serves as chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, is professor of ophthalmology and preventive medicine, and was recently elected president of USC Care Medical Group, will be continuing in all his current leadership roles while a nationwide search is underway to identify a new permanent dean for the Keck School.

In his email, Quick stated, "An accomplished physi-

cian-scientist, Dr. Varma is also a dedicated and capable leader and we appreciate his service in this interim role."

Varma earned his medical degree at the University of Delhi, India, and his master of public health degree from Johns Hopkins University.

Carmen A. Puliafito, MD, MBA, announced his resignation as dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC on March 24 in an email addressed to faculty, staff and students of the medical school. Puliafito stepped down to "return to academic ophthalmology and pursue some identified opportunities in health care," according to the statement.

Puliafito had served as dean of the Keck School of Medicine since 2007.

About the USC Roski Eye Institute

- It is ranked in the top 10 for research funding by the National Eye Institute, a part of the prestigious National Institutes for Health.
- It has ranked among the nation's top ophthalmology programs in national hospital rankings for more than 20 years.
- Its Pediatric Ophthalmology Service is the only program in the nation with expertise in virtually every pediatric ophthalmologic subspecialty.
- USC Department of Ophthalmology faculty have been awarded more than 60 patents for innovations in eye care and vision research.
- The institute was the first West Coast provider of the PROSE (Prosthetic Replacement of the Ocular Surface Ecosystem) — a scleral device for treating irregular astigmatism and dry eye.

See **GIFT**, page 2

USC, JPL to launch fungi in quest to develop space medicines

By Zen Vuong

Researchers at USC and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory say they will be the first team in the world to launch fungi into space for the purpose of potentially developing new medicine for use both in space and on Earth.

USC and JPL researchers are scheduled to send specimens of the *Aspergillus nidulans* fungus to the International Space Station aboard the SpaceX CRS-8 mission April 8.

The stressful environment of the International Space Station (ISS) could trigger changes in physiological responses (such as gene expression) and metabolism of *Aspergillus nidulans*, said Clay Wang, PhD, a professor of pharmacology and pharmaceutical sciences and chemistry at the USC School of Pharmacy and the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

Certain types of fungi produce very important molecules called secondary metabolites that are not essential for their growth or reproduction but can be used to make beneficial pharmaceuticals, such as the antibiotic penicillin and the cholesterol-lowering drug lovastatin.

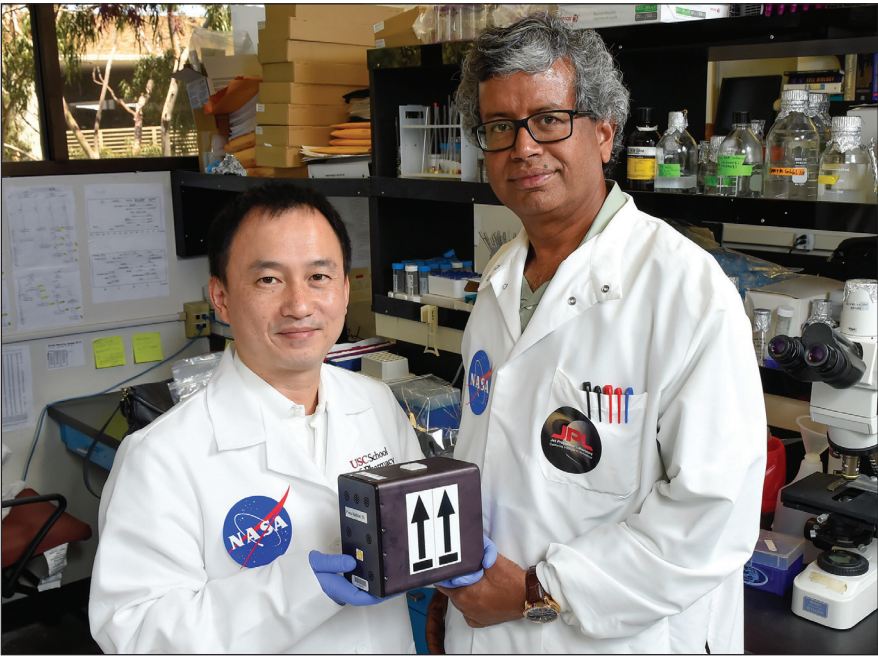
“The high-radiation, microgravity environment in space could prompt

Aspergillus nidulans to produce molecules it doesn’t create in Earth’s less stressful conditions,” said Wang, who heads the USC-JPL collaborative study. “We’ve done extensive genetic analysis of this fungus and found that it could potentially produce 40 different types of drugs. The organism is known to produce osteoporosis drugs, which is very important from an astronaut’s perspective because we know that in space travel, astronauts experience bone loss.”

Based on current, Earth-based research, USC scientists said molecules from *Aspergillus nidulans* have the potential to be used in anti-cancer, anti-fungal and Alzheimer’s disease studies. As a leading research university, USC is uniquely equipped to address these intractable problems both on Earth and perhaps beyond.

A Falcon 9 rocket is scheduled to launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida at 1:43 p.m. PDT on April 8. This will be SpaceX’s first Cargo Resupply Services flight since CRS-7 exploded 139 seconds into flight on June 28, 2015.

Kasthuri “Venkat” Venkateswaran, senior research scientist at JPL and co-principal investigator in this study, said the new compounds that might



Gus Ruelas

be produced in space could be valuable for humankind.

“This is the first project where we see an intersection between pharmaceutical science and space exploration,” Wang said. “Drugs have an expiration date. NASA’s human mission

to Mars is expected to last anywhere from one to three years. Not all drugs are going to be stable in that time period, so the ability to make drugs in space will enable us to go further away from Earth and will also benefit future space explorations.”

GIFT: Roskis’ support is “incredible vote of confidence”

Continued from page 1

received international acclaim for their contributions to vision research, including the world’s most widely used glaucoma implant and the development of optical coherence tomography, a non-invasive imaging technique used to diagnose glaucoma, macular degeneration and other conditions. Varma, who also holds the Grace and Emery Beardsley Chair in Ophthalmology and is president of USC Care Medical Group, is a recognized expert in glaucoma and has led the nation’s most influential studies on eye health in minority and vulnerable communities for the past 20 years.

“Gayle and Ed Roski’s gift is an incredible vote of confidence in the work we do at the USC Roski Eye Institute. Their support of USC has been unwavering over the decades and I am humbled that they have

chosen to invest in our faculty and our work,” Varma said. “This gift will enable us to advance eye research in fields such as ocular imaging, drug delivery, dry eye, stem cell therapies and public health and policy.

“These funds will also establish a surgical training laboratory for teaching the most advanced surgical skills to the next generation of eye surgeons,” he added. “With this gift, we will continue to make progress toward our most ambitious goal — eliminating blindness.”

Ed Roski said he and his wife are honored to help the institute grow and expand. “Sight is so profoundly important, and we feel fortunate to be in a place where we can help bring the institute to the next level,” he said.

President and chairman of the board of Majestic Realty Co., Ed

Roski also is co-owner of the Los Angeles Kings and Los Angeles Lakers. Combining his love of sports with his passion for business, he is recognized for playing a critical role in developing the Staples Center, a landmark in downtown Los Angeles.

A generous and humble philanthropist, he commits his time and resources to countless civic organizations throughout Los Angeles, and has served as a member of the USC Board of Trustees since 2002, having previously served as chairman.

Gayle Roski is a native of Los Angeles who studied fine arts at USC. Her watercolor paintings have been exhibited extensively in museums and galleries from Southern California to Scotland. She is chair of the art committee at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels and serves on the

executive boards of the California Art Club and the USC Roski School of Art and Design.

“As an artist, the most important thing to me is my eyesight,” Gayle Roski said. “Imagine having a yellow lens due to cataracts over your eyes all the time, and then having it removed. The improvement was amazing, and our hope is that this gift helps other people improve their vision.”

The Roskis’ gift is a major step forward in USC’s \$6 billion Campaign for the University of Southern California, one of the most ambitious fundraising campaigns in the history of higher education. The campaign has already raised more than \$5 billion to advance USC’s academic priorities and expand its positive impact on the community and the world.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 9
7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. USC Multidisciplinary Lung Cancer Continuing Medical Education. “Lung Cancer in 2016: Multidisciplinary Update,” Frances A Shepherd, MD, University of Toronto. Westin Pasadena Hotel. Info: Anika Bobb, (323) 442-2547, uscme@usc.edu. Registration: <http://www.usc.edu/cme>

Saturday-Sunday, April 9-10
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books. University Park Campus. Info: events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks

Tuesday, April 12
5:30 p.m. Ophthalmology Grand Rounds. Arman Zaman, MD. HC4 Conference Room, 6th Floor. Info: Tyaisha Christopher, (323) 409-5233, tyaisha.christopher@med.usc.edu, <http://www.usceye.org>

Wednesday, April 13
Noon. USC Institute for Global Health Lecture. “Global Health Choices: Disease Eradication, Elimination, Control or Neglect?” Daniel Tarantola, MD. Gould School of Law (LAW) Room 101. Info: Larissa Puro, (323) 442-7233, puro@usc.edu, <http://bit.ly/1XBeJgR>

Noon. USC Women in Management. “State of the University/Senior VP Luncheon,” Michael Quick, PhD. Town and Gown. Info and RSVP: Kristine Moe, (213) 740-1155, kristen.moe@usc.edu, <http://www.uscwim.org/calendar.asp>

12:50 p.m. USC Stevens Center for Innovation Info Session “USC Stevens Student Innovator Showcase 2016,” THH 212. Info: Peijean Tsai, (213) 821-6063, peijcant@usc.edu, <http://stevens.usc.edu>

Thursday, April 14
1:30 p.m. Keck Medicine of USC Stroke

Support Group Meeting. “Life after Stroke,” May Kim-Tenser, MD. Keck Hospital, 3 North, Day Room, 3261A. Info: Ozzy Obiwuru, (323) 442-0049, obiwuru@med.usc.edu.

5:30 p.m. Norris Medical Library. “Film Screening: Intersexion,” Karin Saric, MLIS. Hastings Auditorium. Info and RSVP: Karin Saric, (323) 442-1483, medlib@usc.edu, <http://nml.usc.edu> Discussion to follow.

Saturday, April 16
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. USC Institute for Integrative Health Symposium. “Inaugural Conference on Integrative Health and Medicine,” Victoria Maizes, MD, University of Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine. Mayer Auditorium. Info and RSVP: Quintilia Avila, (323) 442-2638, iih@usc.edu, <http://www.integrativehealth.usc.edu>

Wednesday, April 20
1 p.m. The Saban Research Institute Seminar. “Regulation of Cardiomyocyte

Proliferation After Birth,” Katherine E. Yutzey, PhD. Auditorium, Saban Research Building, 4661 Sunset Blvd. Los Angeles CA. Info: Ritu Gill, (323) 361-8715, tecpad@chla.org, <http://chla.org/tecpad>

4:30 p.m. Department of Anesthesiology Lecture. “Sixth Annual Vladimir Zelman, MD, PhD, Distinguished Lecture Series,” Garrett Reisman, PhD, director of operations for SpaceX, former NASA astronaut. Hastings Auditorium. Info: Deborah Caldwell, (323) 442-5840, deborah.caldwell@med.usc.edu

Friday, April 22
8:30 a.m. Hastings Center for Pulmonary Research Seminar. “Long-Term Consequences of Perinatal Lung Inflammation: Implications for Adult Pulmonary Care,” Rose M. Viscardi, MD, University of Maryland. IRD 734. Info: Elva Rubio, (323) 226-7923, elvarubi@usc.edu

Keck Scholarship Gala honors faculty, alums

By Amanda Busick

The 2016 Keck Scholarship Gala on March 12 was a sold out event, with more than 300 alumni, current scholarship recipients, parents, donors, and other friends of Keck School of Medicine of USC gathering to honor two renowned alumni and one esteemed faculty member.

The event raised close to \$300,000 to help fund recruitment scholarships at the Keck School, surpassing their goal of beating the previous gala total of \$225,000.

The Distinguished Faculty Award was presented to Donald I. Feinstein, MD, MACP, emeritus professor of medicine, a revered hematology-oncology doctor and a Master of the American College of Physicians. His areas of expertise include hematologic disorders associated with bleeding and thrombosis, and he was responsible for naming the most common inhibitor of the partial thrombosis time (PTT), the Lupus Anticoagulant. Even after his official retirement eight years ago, he still continues to work at the Keck School.

Drew Pinsky, MD '84, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry, received the Distinguished Alumni Merit Award for his work as a doctor and as a health and wellness advocate, specializing primarily in addiction medicine. Throughout his career, he has authored several best-selling books and hosted a multitude of programs on television, radio, and podcasts.

The Distinguished Alumni Service Award was presented to Michele M. Cannis, MD '77, former associate clinical professor. Cannis is a respected pediatrician and educator, as well as the former president of the volunteer and support organization the Salerno Collegium Alumni Association. She has given countless hours of service as a volunteer throughout her long-standing relationship with USC.

In addition to these honorees, Betty Schreiner, MD, '61, was also recognized for her recent \$1.25 million gift that established the Joseph and Mariette Schreiner Scholarship Fund in honor of her parents, who worked hard to send her to medical



Steve Cohn

Raquel D. Arias poses with recruitment scholarship recipients at the 2016 Keck School of Medicine of USC Scholarship Gala at Town & Gown on March 12.

school at the Keck School in the late 1950s. Schreiner attended the event with the inaugural recipient of this scholarship, Chioma Moneme.

The program for the evening also included a presentation from Raquel Arias, MD '82, MPH, associate dean for admissions, associate professor

of clinical obstetrics and gynecology, and a recruitment scholar herself. She highlighted the fierce competition the Keck School faces with other schools and how scholarships are needed to continue to attract the best and brightest medical school applicants.

SAMPLE: dynamic leadership

Continued from page 1

USC's successes, so much of our university's current stature can be traced back to Dr. Sample's dynamic leadership, keen foresight, and extraordinary prudence. Dr. Sample stood over our university — and led our Trojan Family — as it began its singular transformation, and for this we should all be grateful."

Among Sample's achievements was a remarkable ability to attract the resources the university needed to build endowment, develop academic programs and support campus improvements.

USC's Building on Excellence campaign raised \$2.85 billion, and the university became the first in the U.S. to receive five gifts of \$100 million or more. During this time, USC also secured naming gifts for seven schools, including the \$110 million naming gift for the Keck School of Medicine of USC. The gift was the largest philanthropic gift ever made to a U.S. medical school at the time.

Sample is survived by his wife, Kathryn Brunkow Sample, daughters Michelle Sample Smith and Elizabeth Sample, son-in-law Kirk Smith and grandchildren Kathryn and Andrew Smith.

PA Program travels to Washington D.C.

By Claire Norman

This spring break, students from the Primary Care Physician Assistant (PA) Program at the Keck School of Medicine of USC attended the fourth annual Advocacy Trip to Washington, D.C. The experience is intended to promote leadership and inspire students to advocate for their profession and patients.

This year 18 students traveled to meet with their congressional representatives and California senators to talk with them about legislation that impacts primary care, student loans and diversity.

Last fall, Congresswoman Karen Bass, an alumna of the Primary Care Physician Assistant Education Public Health Initiatives Act of 2015 and the Physician Assistant Higher Education Modernization Act of 2015 to Congress. These pieces of legislation work to combat issues of medical shortage in primary care by providing scholarships to disadvantaged PA students, authorizing loan repayment for PA students who serve in areas of need, increasing loan limits for PA students, developing PA programs at historically black institutions, providing grant preference to Hispanic Serving Institutions, and enhancing educational technology for PA programs.



Claire Norman

Students pose with Congresswoman Karen Bass, an alumna of the Primary Care Physician Assistant Program at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, in front of her office on Capitol Hill.

"It was so exciting to meet with Congresswoman Bass and collaborate," said PA student Sijin Park. "It was an opportunity of a lifetime to be on Capitol Hill and represent the voices of future PA students."

Students met with American Academy of Physician Assistant and Physician Assistant Education Association team members to learn about how to talk to representatives and staffers to advocate for co-sponsorship on these bills. They learned about how the activities in Washington, D.C. affect their practice and how they can put

their best foot forward to advocate for students, practicing PAs and patients.

On the final day of the trip, students also met with staffers for Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and with representatives from their own congressional districts. Students spoke about their experiences in the classroom, participating in Student-Run Clinic and the Pipeline Program. Students advocated for their representatives to act as co-sponsors of the two pieces of legislation in the House and for the Senators to lead in creating a matching bill for the Senate.

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HSC Newsmakers

A roundup of news items related to Keck Medicine of USC, which may include philanthropic donations, research grants, publication in academic journals and mentions in the news media:



Visit the Keck Medicine Health Pavilion at the 2016 LA Times Festival of Books, held on the University Park Campus

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

10 A.M. – 6 P.M.

- BMI measurements
- Dental screenings
- Glucose and blood pressure screenings
- Hand hygiene
- Medication checks
- Melanoma screenings
- Oral health and hygiene instruction
- Sleep hygiene presentations
- Vision screenings

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

- Weight and stress management

10 A.M. – 5 P.M.

- Dental screenings
- Hand hygiene
- Melanoma screenings
- Oral health and hygiene instruction
- Robotic surgery demonstration
- Vision screenings

2 P.M. – 5 P.M.

- BMI measurements
- Glucose and blood pressure screenings
- Medication checks



Former astronaut to speak at annual Zelman lecture series

THE VLADIMIR ZELMAN, MD, PhD, Distinguished and Endowed Lectureship Series returns for its sixth year. Former NASA astronaut Garrett Reisman will be at Hastings Auditorium in the Hoffman Medical Building for a lecture at 5:15 p.m. April 20. Reisman is now the director of crew operations for Space Exploration Technologies, a design and manufacturing firm for rockets and spacecraft. The lectureship is sponsored by the Guilford and Diane Glazer Foundation, RSVP by April 14 to deborah.caldwell@med.usc.edu. The series is named for Zelman, a Keck School of Medicine of USC professor and co-chair of the Department of Anesthesiology.

Ideas needed for R3 Competition

THE INTERPROFESSIONAL FINANCE COUNCIL and R3 Hospital Initiative are hosting an R3 Innovation Competition. The R3 initiative focuses on providing the right care, right resources and right cost for our patients. This Keck Medical Center of USC competition is an opportunity for clinical staff to submit innovative ideas that will make an impact on resource utilization and efficiency of care for patients. Submit entries at <https://goo.gl/ho95iH> by April 18 at 11:59 p.m. This challenge is open to clinical staff at Keck Hospital of USC and USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. For more information, email R3innovation@med.usc.edu.

Jung wins Outstanding Investigator Award from NCI

By Mary Dacuma

Distinguished Professor Jae Jung, PhD, chair of the Department of Molecular Microbiology & Immunology and the director of the USC Institute for Emerging Pathogens and Immune Diseases at the Keck School of Medicine, is among the 2016 recipients of the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) Outstanding Investigator Award.

Jung committed much of his last 20 years of research to examining viruses that stay dormant in the body for an entire lifetime and cause diseases upon declining immune conditions, with a particular emphasis on the Kaposi’s sarcoma associated herpesvirus (KSHV). When the immune system is weakened, KSHV can spread and cause Kaposi’s sarcoma, a form of systemic cancer with cutaneous lesions that can be solitary, localized or disseminated.

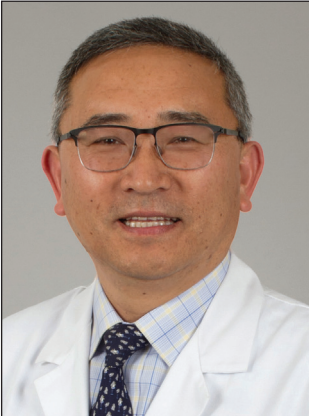
“We are investigating

how the virus persists in the body, how the virus induces Kaposi’s sarcoma, and ultimately what we can do to prevent Kaposi’s sarcoma,” Jung said.

To support Jung’s efforts, the NCI will provide an annual grant of \$1 million for the next seven years, totaling \$7 million for the Jae Jung Lab in the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology.

“I am honored to be recognized as an Outstanding Investigator by the NCI,” Jung said. “But more importantly, I am excited for the opportunity, with the financial support of the NCI, to heavily focus on bigger questions about Kaposi’s sarcoma and lifelong, persistent infections of KSHV. I am very much looking forward to our discoveries over the next few years.”

The Outstanding Investigator Award is a new grant program developed by NCI



Jae Jung

in 2014 that will provide funding to investigators with outstanding records of productivity in cancer research to continue or embark upon new projects of unusual potential in cancer research over an extended period of seven years. The award was developed to provide investigators with substantial time to break new ground or extend previous discoveries to advance biomedical, behavioral, or clinical cancer research.

Smitha Ravipudi named COO of USC Care

By Virginia Baca

Los Angeles area health care executive Smitha Ravipudi, MPH, has been appointed Chief Operating Officer of USC Care and Ambulatory Care Services.

Ravipudi will be responsible for all Keck Medicine of USC ambulatory operations, including hospital-based clinics, Keck School of Medicine of USC department clinics, and outpatient joint venture partnerships and community practices. She will report to Rod Hanners, COO of Keck Medicine of USC and CEO of Keck Medical Center of USC.

Ravipudi will work closely with system leaders, her USC Care peers and the clinical chairs, led by Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, interim Dean of the Keck School of Medicine and president of USC Care, to execute the ambulatory strategy with assured physician alignment.

“Smitha’s skills and leadership qualities make her the ideal choice for COO of USC Care,” said Hanners. “This role is critical for our health system as we continue to partner with our faculty to improve operations, expand our geographic footprint in Southern California and advance our clinical expertise in surrounding markets,” adds Hanners.

Ravipudi joins USC Care from Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) where she held multiple leadership positions, most recently as vice president of access and ambulatory operations, overseeing the outpatient clinics, community ambulatory care centers, pre-service and access operations and patient relations and service excellence.

Under her leadership, CHLA developed and launched the ambulatory electronic medical record, the

patient and physician portals, its meaningful use program, while opening five regional outpatient centers and the hospital’s first appointment center. Prior to assuming the vice president role, Ravipudi served as the administrative director for the Department of Surgery at CHLA.

“I am honored to join the Keck Medicine of USC team,” Ravipudi said. “I look forward to working closely with Keck faculty and hospital leaders to achieve and sustain operational fortitude in the ambulatory space.



Smitha Ravipudi

Together, we will secure growth, while ensuring ease of access, quality, and convenience for the many patients we serve.”

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Editor: Amanda Busick

Director, Internal Communications: Virginia Baca

Contributors: Virginia Baca, Ricardo Carrasco III, Nathan Cowen, Mary Dacuma, Lynn Lipinski, Melissa Masatani, Claire Norman, Sara Reeve, Carol Sussman, Sue Vogl, Zen Vuong and L. Alexis Young

Phone: (323) 442-2830
Fax: (323) 442-2832
Email: hscnews@usc.edu
Web: hscnews.usc.edu | kecknet.usc.edu

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